

# Indiana Brownfields Program Trails and Parks Initiative



## ***At a Glance:***

*The purpose of the Indiana Brownfields Program Trails and Parks Initiative is to provide environmental assessments to local units of government and non-profit organizations for brownfield properties where trails, parks, or other greenspace/recreational reuse is planned.*

## ***What is a Brownfield?***

*A brownfield is a property where redevelopment or reuse is complicated due to actual or potential environmental contamination.*

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **Introduction**

In May 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency selected the State of Indiana to receive \$400,000 in grant funding to perform environmental site assessments at brownfield properties contaminated or potentially contaminated with hazardous substances or petroleum products. This funding, in addition to \$200,000 in matching funds provided by the Indiana Finance Authority, will be used to establish the Indiana Brownfields Program Trails and Parks Initiative.

The Indiana Brownfields Program will administer the initiative and contract with qualified environmental consulting firms to perform environmental assessment activities at eligible brownfield sites throughout Indiana. Environmental assessments are often necessary before acquiring and redeveloping properties that may be contaminated due to past operations at the site or neighboring sites. Properly assessing a property before redevelopment is important to ensure the health and safety of those who will utilize the property in the future.

## **What kind of brownfields will be targeted for assessments?**

- Brownfield sites where trails, parks, or other greenspace/recreational reuse is planned
- Brownfield sites/projects that do not involve parties responsible for the contamination
- Brownfield sites that are not eligible for Excess Liability Trust Fund (ELTF) assistance (applicable to certain petroleum sites)

## **How can my community request an assessment?**

Guidelines have not yet been completed, but applications are anticipated to be available in fall of 2007, with an application deadline in December 2007. Political subdivisions and non-profit organizations may apply. *Note: this is not a grant program; Phase I and/or Phase II environmental site assessments will be performed by environmental consultants on contract with the Indiana Brownfields Program.*

## **How will sites be prioritized to receive an assessment?**

Applications will be competitively scored according to criteria such as:

- Redevelopment plans, including sustainable reuse as a park, trail, or other greenspace/recreational reuse
- Local support for the project
- Demographic factors

## **What are Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments?**

A Phase I environmental site assessment is intended to identify existing or potential environmental contamination. It examines past uses of the property and adjacent properties through the search of regulatory records, maps, and aerial photography. It involves a walk-through of the site, but no collection of samples. A Phase II environmental site assessment investigates environmental conditions identified in the Phase I assessment typically with the collection of soil, groundwater, and surface water samples, which are submitted to laboratories for analysis.